

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims

1. (Previously Presented) A method for the preparation of a modified carrier for a catalyst to be used for the vapor phase epoxidation of alkene, comprising:

- a) impregnating a preformed alpha-alumina carrier, which has been subjected to calcining and, optionally, other preforming treatments, as part of the preforming process, with at least one alkali metal hydroxide modifier;
- b) optionally drying said impregnated carrier;
- c) calcining said impregnated and optionally dried carrier; and
- d) washing said calcined carrier.

2. (Previously Presented) A method for the preparation of a catalyst to be used for the vapor phase epoxidation of alkene, comprising:

- a) impregnating a preformed alpha-alumina carrier, which has been subjected to calcining and, optionally, other preforming treatments, as part of the preforming process, with at least one alkali metal hydroxide modifier;
- b) optionally drying said impregnated carrier;
- c) calcining said impregnated and optionally dried carrier;
- d) washing said calcined carrier; and
- e) depositing silver catalytic material on said calcined carrier.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein said calcining is carried out at a temperature of 800°C. to 1800°C.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein said alpha-alumina carrier has a morphology comprising interlocking platelets.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein said alpha-alumina carrier is prepared by contacting boehmite alumina and/or gamma-alumina

with an acidic mixture containing halide anions and water.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein at least one efficiency enhancing promoter is deposited on said preformed alpha-alumina carrier.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said promoter comprises a rhenium-containing compound.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said alkene is ethylene.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein said alkali metal hydroxide is present in an amount from 0.01 to 5.0 weight percent, based on the total weight of the modified alumina carrier.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein said alkali metal hydroxide is sodium hydroxide.

11-52 (Cancelled)